and committed participation of State Governments but also increased public awareness, and greater transparency and accountability in the public bodies.

**Setting up of joint venture by NTPC**

*29. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has formed a joint venture Utility Powertech Ltd. (UPL);

(b) if so, when it was formed and the details of nature of the joint venture and its present assignment;

(c) whether any progress has been made for NTPC and BHEL continues to offer bids for power projects including Ultra Mega Power projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC had formed a Joint Venture with Bombay Suburban Electricity Supply(BSES), namely, Utility Powertech Limited(UPL) in November, 1995 mainly to take up assignments of construction, erection and supervision in power sector and other sectors in India and abroad.

Subsequently, BSES was taken over by Reliance Energy Linited (REL) and UPL, at present, is a 50:50 Joint Venture between NTPC Limited and REL.

The following services are being provided by UPL:

(i) Operation and Maintenance Services

(ii) Renovation and Modernisation Services

(iii) Construction Services

(iv) Distribution works

(v) Rural Electrification works

(vi) Non-conventional Energy Services.

(c) to (e) As informed by NTPC Ltd., they and BHEL had agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the supply of Boiler and Turbo Generator equipments for the Sasan Ultra Mega Power project. However, the price quoted by BHEL was high. Consequently, NTPC Ltd. had considered the plant/equipments' cost based on the cost of the similar equipments previously awarded through the process of competitive bidding process for NTPC Ltd. projects and NTPC Ltd. submitted bids for 660 MW units for Sasan UMPP on its own.

**Time limit for results of DU**

†*30. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.